THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Detailed instructions were incorporated as license conditions, which *inter-alia* provide that the Service Providers are required to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as a subscriber. This includes obtaining photograph and copies of prescribed documents for identity proof and address proof of the subscriber.

Keeping in view the importance of security conditions, the instructions were reiterated time and again, meetings were held with all the Service Providers to stress the adherence of the instructions issued by DOT.

As per the latest instructions, service providers were required to re-verify their existing subscriber base by March, 2007. Special drives were conducted in April and May, 2007 to audit the status of subscriber verification carried out by the mobile operators on sample basis. The auditing of the subscribers' identity verification is a continuous process.

Routine checks, in this regard, are carried out by DOT through its Vigilance Technical Monitoring Cells. Based on their observations, 133 show cause notices have been issued in last six months to the concerned service providers, wherever discrepancies/deficiencies were noticed, for imposition of penalty which is to be levied after following due procedure.

US sanctions on Iran

*6. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the US sanctions imposed on Iran; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The latest set of sanctions on Iran was announced by the US on Oct. 25, 2007. The US has designated serveral Iranian military and financial institutions and individuals as entities facilitating nuclear proliferation and financing terrorism. As per the sanctions, no US citizen or organisation will be allowed to engage in financial transactions with these persons and entities.

Government of India have consistently maintained that the nuclear issue of Iran should be resolved peacefully through dialogue and negotiations within the framework of the IAEA.

IHSDP in Cuttack

*7. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to develop infrastructure in Cuttack under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP), a centrally funded project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre has also promised to resolve various other problems of slum dwellers in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) No proposal has so far been received from the Government of Orissa for the development of infrastructure in the slums of Cuttack under IHSDP.

(c) and (d) The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) component under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) aims to address the problems of housing and basic services to the urban poor, including slum-dwellers in 63 select cities in the country by providing Additional Central Assistance. These include Bhubaneswar and Puri in Orissa. For each of these cities, a project has been sanctioned under the BSUP Scheme. Other cities and towns, as prioritized by State Governments, are eligible under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). Both BSUP and IHSDP are under implementation since December, 2005. Additional Central Assistance is released under BSUP and IHSDP based on Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted by State Level Nodal Agencies conforming to the scheme guidelines for the consideration of the Sanctioning Committee at the Central level.

World Bank loan for Panchayati Raj System

*8. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efforts of his Ministry to get a Rs. 4,000 crore loan from the World Bank to strengthen the Panchayati Raj System in the country have succeeded;

(b) if so, the details of the plan charted out to utilize the above loan;

(c) whether any emphasis would be given in the plan for development of Panchayati Raj System in backward districts, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Ministry has realized the importance of taking 'Block' as a unit instead of the existing parameter of taking 'District' as a unit, as a result of which even if 25% of the district is backward it is not able to reap the benefit of schemes and remaining backward for a longer time?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In order to operationalize the programme of action developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in consultation with the State Governments for strengthening of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry has proposed seeking funding from the World Bank for the following purposes:

(i) Funding and technical support for the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS):

The PEAIS is sought to be implemented across the country as national programme through which States that are able to show better performance in implementing Panchayati Raj and Panchayats at all levels that are able to show better performance in practicing transparency and being accountable to citizens, would receive incentive grants. The performance of the States and Panchayats would be independently assessed using a devolution index developed for the purpose. The PEAIS is envisaged to be a Government of India led funding support, to which the World Bank and other donors could provide supplementation with additional funds. World Bank and donor funding will be subsidiary to GOI funding. The PEAIS was approved for 2006-07 as a Central Sector Scheme for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, with a total allocation of